



YOSHIKAZU OHWAKI (大脇義一) 1897-1976

著者	Abe J.
journal or publication title	Tohoku psychologica folia
volume	35
page range	131-132
year	1977-03-30
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10097/00064947



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On January 23, 1976, aged 78 years and 11 months, Yoshikazu Ohwaki died in Sendai. His death is a very grievous loss to Japanese psychology and to the Board of Tohoku Psychologica Folia, that he led as editor 1942 to 1960 and maintained as cooperator since the year of the establishment 1933. The Board cordially feel a very sad bereavement.

He was born of a bonze as his eldest son in Kyoto on February 7, 1897. He completed all his school education in Kyoto city. He was graduated from the psychological course of Kyoto University in 1922 and remained four years more as a student of the post-graduate course, a sub-assistant and an assistant there, where Tanenari Chiba¹ was teaching as an associate professor. It seems very important to his life career that he encountered T. Chiba. In 1924, at twenty-seven years of age, he was offered by the recommendation of T. Chiba the first associate professorship in Psychological Institute of Tohoku University that had been established as tertial national university in 1922 and in which T. Chiba had been appointed as the first professor of psychology.

In the period of his staying in Kyoto University and the beginning of Tohoku University, he was mainly interested in the problems of will. When he had a chance to study abroad (1929 to 1931), he principally remained in the institute of N. Ach (Göttingen Univ.). Under the direction of Prof. N. Ach he published his first German paper "Über die sensorische Volum-einstellung" (in Archiv f. d. ges. Psychol., 83). After his homecoming he devoted himself to the experimental studies of representation (Vorstellung) and eidetic image (Eidetik) under the influence of then German psychology and T. Chiba's proper consciousness theory¹.

After the retiring of T. Chiba (in 1940) he was appointed to a professor in 1941. During the Second World War, while his manifold experimental studies were integrated under the influence of German psychology to his "Handbook of Psychology", moreover they were extended to the field researches on personality of Ainu children and on the local characters of people in Japan.

After the World War he turned his attention to American psychology and added brilliant up-to-date studies on perceptions, sensations and afterimage, and he newly integrated his psychological thought to his book "Psychology" (1948, 1955) under the influence of U.S.A. psychology. And then his interest was spread more to psychology of delinquents, applied psychology and clinical psychology; he contributed to making an intelligence test for the blind and an aptitude test for a driver.

In 1960 (63 years old), he retired from Tohoku University under the age limit. After the retirement he remained as a professor in private Kansai University (Osaka city) from 1960 to 1966 and in private Wako University (Tokyo) from 1966 to 1973. In this period he was mainly interested in applied and clinical psychology.

In sum he brilliantly contributed to a correct orientation of Japanese psychology to contemporary world trends of psychology, through his life. And then while he was qualified as a bishop in Buddhism, it hardly influenced his psychological thought. In this point his psychology makes a sharp contrast with T. Chiba's psychology influenced basically by Buddhism. These two psychologists cut two brilliant and typical figures among contemporary Japanese psychologists.

(J. Abe)

1. J. Abe 1972 Tanenari Chiba (1884–1972) *Tohoku Psychol. Folia*, 31, 123–125.